

**DRAFT Table of Comparisons Among Data Display Options**

Display Option	Description	Consumer Ease of Use & Understanding	Technical Precision	Difficulty to Perform	Comments
1. Stars by Percentile Group (15th/50th/85th)	Current working version. Categories determined by percentile ranking. Proportion of hospitals in each category remains the same for all quality measures.	High. Intuitive to understand; makes clear distinctions among hospitals.	Moderate. Output should be suppressed where differences are small	Low	Percentiles not feasible for some measures (e.g., Leapfrog except for patient safety practices).
2. Stars by Score Group	Categories determined by absolute numeric score. Proportion of hospitals in each category may vary.	Low. Not intuitive to understand, and standard different for every measure.	Moderate. Output should be suppressed where differences are small. Method of determining thresholds problematic	High. Need to develop methodology to determine threshold for each measure	Complex methodology likely to feel like a “black box”. In practice, this option is similar to #3 since each hospital can only be examined in relation to its peers. Not feasible for some measures.
3. Stars by Confidence Intervals	Categories determined by 95% confidence intervals. On average, few hospitals will be identified different from norm.	Low/Moderate. Not intuitive; will make fewer distinctions	High.	Moderate	Not feasible for some measures (e.g., Leapfrog). Has different effect on small hospitals than large hospitals. Hospital Compare has 98.5% of hospitals rated the same for heart failure mortality.
4. Stars by National Benchmarks	Categories determined by comparison to national benchmarks. Benchmarks may be well above or below typical MA performance.	Low/Moderate. Fairly intuitive but will make fewer distinctions and not feasible for some measures	Moderate.	Moderate	National benchmarks available for Hospital Compare and Leapfrog only. Do consumers care about national benchmarks when choosing a local provider? RL considers this weakest option.
5. No stars: List in Rank Order	Each hospital individually ranked from high to low	High. Intuitive and makes clear distinctions between hospitals	Low. Output should be suppressed where differences are small.	Low	Would be available on detail pages of website. RL finds this helpful and clear to consumers; must be cautious of small differences.
6. No stars: Display Confidence Intervals	Graphical display of individual scores and confidence interval	Moderate. Easy to see, but less intuitive and does not make explicit distinctions.	Moderate	Moderate. Requires graphical redesign.	Confidence intervals not possible for some measures (e.g., Leapfrog)